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37. (Original) An apparatus for automatically processing
2 and managing spatial asset information, the apparatus
comprising:

4 a processing computer for receiving a plurality of field
data that has been collected; and

6 a data repository connectable to said processing computer
for receiving processing results of said processing computer,

8 wherein said data repository further comprises,

a plurality of reference networks;

10 a geographic information system having a plurality of
asset layers;

12 a plurality of pre-defined instances of primary
observation types; and

14 a plurality of pre-defined associations between each
of said plurality of pre-defined instances of primary
16 observation types, wherein said data repository is
configured based upon said plurality of pre-defined
18 instances of primary observation types and said plurality
of pre-defined associations;

20 wherein said processing computer,

converts each of said plurality of field data

22 into an appropriate one of said primary observation

types;

24 correlates each of said converted primary
observation types of each of said plurality of field
26 data to an appropriate one of said plurality of
reference networks and an appropriate one of said
28 plurality of asset layers; and
updates said appropriate one of said plurality of
30 asset layers with each of said converted primary
observation types of each of said plurality of field data.

37. (After Examiner's Amendment) An apparatus for
2 automatically processing and managing spatial asset information,
the apparatus comprising:

4 a processing computer for receiving a plurality of field
data that has been collected; and

6 a—data repository connectable to said processing computer
for receiving processing results of said processing computer,
8 wherein said data repository further comprises,

a plurality of reference networks;

10 a geographic information system having a plurality of
asset layers;

12 a plurality of pre-defined instances of primary
observation types; and

14 a plurality of pre-defined associations between each
of said plurality of pre-defined instances of primary
16 observation types, wherein said data repository is
configured based upon said plurality of pre-defined

18 instances of primary observation types and said plurality
of pre-defined associations;

20 wherein said processing computer,

converts each of said plurality of field data
22 into an appropriate one of said primary observation
types;

24 correlates each of said converted primary
observation types of each of said plurality of field
26 data to an appropriate one of said plurality of
reference networks and an appropriate one of said
28 plurality of asset layers; and

~~updates said appropriate one of said plurality of~~
30 ~~asset layers with each of said converted primary~~
~~observation types of each of said plurality of field data~~
32 wherein said collecting of field data further comprises:

capturing free speech stating verbal observations
34 containing voice data;

capturing location data contemporaneously with each of
36 said verbal observations;

time-stamping each of said captured verbal create a
38 raw verbal observation; and

time-stamping said captured location data.

37. (Applicant's Version) An apparatus for automatically
2 processing and managing spatial asset information, the apparatus
comprising:

4 a processing computer for receiving a plurality of field
data that has been collected; and

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for receiving processing results of said processing computer,
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of said plurality of pre-defined instances of primary
16 observation types, wherein said data repository is
configured based upon said plurality of pre-defined
18 instances of primary observation types and said plurality
of pre-defined associations;

20 wherein said processing computer,

converts each of said plurality of field data
22 into an appropriate one of said primary observation
types;

24 correlates each of said converted primary
observation types of each of said plurality of field
26 data to an appropriate one of said plurality of
reference networks and an appropriate one of said
28 plurality of asset layers; and

updates said appropriate one of said plurality of
30 asset layers with each of said converted primary
observation types of each of said plurality of field data;

32 and

wherein said collecting of field data further
34 comprises:

capturing free speech stating verbal observations
36 containing voice data;

capturing location data contemporaneously with each of
38 said verbal observations;

time-stamping each of said captured verbal create a
40 raw verbal observation; and

time-stamping said captured location data.